

Creative FINANCING

Queens Council on the Arts distributes annual grants to borough artists and groups

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

Citywide program.

In all, the QCA handed out more than \$190,000 to Queens-based artists.

"The Queens Arts Fund is a competitive application process that is reviewed by a panel of peers that make recommendations for funding. We have been honored to facilitate this process for Queens County since the late 1970s," QCA Grants and Resource Director Lynn Lobell said. "All the arts and cultural programming projects will take place in many different local venues, and it's up to each organization and artist to determine

Late last month, despite dire snow predictions, the Queens Council on the Arts sallied forth with its annual celebratory evening and honored 48 organizations and 40 individuals awarded one of its Queens Art Funds grants.

Artists will present their works across the borough this year in the areas of visual and literary arts, films, theater, multimedia, dance and music.

Grants were also presented to 11 individuals who work with senior centers in the Seniors Partnering with Artists



Artists Lily Yang, Honglei Li and He Li, who work under the name Lily & Honglei, earned a Queens Council on the Arts grant for their piece "Shadow Play: Tales of Urbanization," (top). Artist Yvonne Shortt's piece, "Farmland Pop Up," (above l.) will be expanded this year after she received a Queens Council on the Arts grant. Actors from Braata Productions (above r.) perform Trevor Rhone's "Positive," a play that focuses on Caribbean themes and cultural.

Photos courtesy Yvonne Shortt, Lily & Honglei and Steve Sanchez Photography

where they will present to the general Queens public."

One of this year's winners, Yvonne Shortt, serves as the executive director of the Rego Park Green Alliance, a creative nonprofit that uses education, technology and art to address community issues.

Last fall, Shortt's group created the Queens Art Intervention Day, which included

performance pieces, chalk drawings and installations around the borough.

As part of that project, Shortt created "Pop Up: Farmland," a piece composed of Legos and images from a 3-D printer that recreates a farm scene.

"This piece is meant to demonstrate how technology can be used to build and adapt systems, art, food, etc.," Shortt

She expects to use the grant money to expand not only her piece from 2014 but also to increase this year's Queens Art Intervention Day participants.

"I feel, getting the grant

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